Connecticut Historical Society
BULLETIN

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NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

At the meeting of March 7, 1950, the Society authorized the Standing Committee to negotiate the purchase of the Curtis H. Veeder residence, at 1 Elizabeth Street in the City of Hartford.

This building was erected in 1925 at the junction of Elizabeth and Asylum Avenue. It is built of stone, concrete, brick and terra cotta tile blocks, with a slate roof. Both basement and attic are completely finished and insulated and all possible steps were taken to make the structure completely fireproof.

The house is large enough to take care of our immediate needs with perhaps the addition of a small stack. There is a frontage of 900 feet on Asylum and Elizabeth Streets so that parking facilities and room for future growth are assured.

All Asylum and Elizabeth Street buses may be used by those who take public conveyances. Buses leave every ten minutes from Trumbull Street and require about ten minutes to reach Elizabeth Street.

There are a number of special features of the house that make it ideally suited for the purposes of the Society. It has an elevator from basement to attic; a built-in vacuum cleaning system; humidified forced air heating system; a lecture room for 120 persons in the basement with outside exit and a cloak room; large attic storage space; and the bearing walls are so placed that partitions may be removed to make several good sized exhibition areas.

If negotiations are successful, it will mark the culmination of a thirty year dream of the Society. It will solve our storage and fire hazard problems and present a unique opportunity for the Society, founded in 1825, to finally realize its full potentialities.

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It might also be well to remind you that contributions for any purpose are needed and will be gratefully received. We are still unable to convince many die hards that financially we are in almost desperate straits. We are budgeted to almost the last nickel of anticipated income and any unforseen expense can easily force us into a deficit for the year. Just because we have purchased recently a slide projector, a mimeograph machine, Venetian blinds, filing cases and a catalog case, does not mean we have income for such purposes. All these things were made possible by special grants or contributions for those purposes by our members. Just because we have purchased recently

a rare book at auction for $400, and a manuscript whaling journal for $150, does not mean we have book funds, the income from which made these purchases possible. Far from it! These and similar purchases are possible only because we can sell duplicate materials and because certain of our members are willing to contribute to make up what we can not find elsewhere. No matter how little or how great the sum might be, your Society can make good use of it.

This is a suitable time to point out that the expense will be great of adapting the Veeder property to our uses, equipping the building and moving. Any contribution for these purposes will save depleting our funds by that amount and make that much more available for endowing the operation of the new home of the Society.

An increase in membership is vital to the future success of the Society. Attending meetings, buying publications, contributing towards special purposes, donating books, manuscripts and museum objects, and helping preserve the records of Connecticut is but one side of being a member. The other side is encouraging others to join with you in this great and laudable task.

We have tried in many ways to extend our membership, more from Hartford, more from around Connecticut, and more from those Connecticut Yankees now removed from our borders. It is interesting that recent admissions are almost equally divided between in-State and out-of-State, and the in-State are almost equally divided between Hartford and vicinity and the rest of the State. One reason for this large out-of-State membership is that the Society is one tie with something of which emigrants are very proud, the record of Connecticut's past. They are sufficiently proud of this heritage that they gladly subscribe to membership to help in the work of preserving the written record, the manufactured record and the cultural record of Connecticut. Distance lends a certain enchantment, but those of us here must not fail to do our share. Let us all make an effort to secure a new member every year. That isn't difficult, or much, and it will mean a great deal to your Society.

A mimeographed list of books for sale has been prepared and is available on request. This list will automatically be sent to new members and institutions. In some cases quantities are limited and promptness in ordering is recommended.

Not too much is known about the artist John Durand. It seems fairly certain he was born in Connecticut, perhaps the son of Samuel Durand.

The first definite record is an advertisement in *The New York Journal*, November 26, 1767 and April 7, 1768 in which he offers to teach young gentlemen the art of design in India ink and watercolor at his house in Broad Street, near City Hall.

It is known that he was in Virginia in 1770, for there he signed and dated the portrait of Amy Newton. He remained there for two years when he returned to the New Haven area and painted a number of canvasses including several now the property of this Society. From 1775-1782 he was again in Virginia and the bulk of his work was done at that time.

Recently we have had restored a painting with all the earmarks of a very early John Durand. The subjects are two children, perhaps twins, a boy and a girl. The canvas measures 42 x 44¼ inches. At this time the subjects and the source are unknown. It was found with the J. Cooper portrait that had been mislaid for nearly fifty years.

Volume 26 of the *Collections* is published and ready for distribution. This continues the papers of John Cotton Smith from July 19, 1813 to April 14, 1814. These letters make available for the first time a rich collection of material on the War of 1812.

As an experiment, the Standing Committee authorized changing the meeting hour from 7:45 P. M. to 4:00 P. M. for the March, April and May meetings. This was done to determine which our members preferred, evening or afternoon meetings. After the May meeting we may have some definite indication on this matter. However, since this plan was adopted the Veeder property has come into the picture and, with adequate parking facilities, the results may be entirely different.

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SILVER GIFT

In our last *Annual Report*, mention was made of efforts to increase our collection of Connecticut silver. Mr. Philip H. Hammerslough, a well known collector and lecturer on silver, presented in September, 44 pieces of silver by Connecticut makers. These include tongs, cream ladle, sauce ladle, mustard spoons, salt spoon, teaspoons and tablespoons. Craftsmen represented are:

Avery, John—Preston
Blackman, John Stow—Danbury
Bliss, Jonathan—Middletown 1804-09
Bradley, Zebul—New Haven 1805
Bushnell, Phineas—Saybrook
Clark & Coit—Norwich 1820
Cleveland, William—Norwich
Cornwell, N.—Danbury
Greenleaf, David, Jr.—Hartford
Griswold, William—Middletown 1820
Hamlin, William—Middletown
Hequembourg, Charles, Jr.—New Haven
Hitchcock, Eliakim—Cheshire
Hughes, Edmund—Middletown
Merriman, Marcus—New Haven
Parmele, James—Durham
Pitkin, John and Pitkin, Walter—East Hartford 1837
Sargeant, Jacob—Mansfield and Hartford
Seymour & Lindsley—Hartford 1840
Staniford, John—Windham
Trott, John Proctor—New London

Williams, D.—Hartford
Wood, James—Hartford

This is a substantial addition to the collection for which the Society is deeply grateful to the donor for his thoughtfulness and generosity.

EXHIBITION

On January 21, 1950, the Society was host to the Walpole Society. In honor of this occasion, a special exhibition of our choicest treasures was arranged. Worthy of particular note are the manuscripts, unique imprints, broadsides and recent acquisitions.

MANUSCRIPTS

1636 March 30
Letter, Sir Richard Saltonstall to John Winthrop

Relates to a controversy over land rights in Windsor. It is one of the earliest documents in Connecticut relating to Connecticut.

1637 July
Letter, Thomas Hooker to John Winthrop

Written by the first pastor of the Hartford Church about July 1637 to his friend, Governor John Winthrop of Boston. It relates in part to the expedition against the Pequot Indians then in progress.

1638–41
Shorthand notes of sermons by Rev. Thomas Hooker and Rev. John Warham

Kept by Henry Wolcott, Jr., and contains the famous sermon in which Hooker said: "Government is by consent of the people."

1650–1708
Windsor Law Book

Contained originally the Fundamental Orders, 1638/9, first codification of Connecticut Laws in 1650, and session acts from 1651-1708. It is believed that every town possessed a similar volume; but that of only one other town is now known to be extant.

1666 April
Deed of the Town of Saybrook

Confirmation by Uncas, the Chief, Sauk, his wife, and their three sons, Joshua, Oneco and Amatha, April, 1666, of a sale to the inhabitants of Saybrook, in 1641, of lands between Connecticut River and Hammonassuck River.

1692 July 25
Letter, John Wolcott to Henry Wolcott

Written by John Wolcott (1645-1729) of Salem, Mass., to his brother, Henry Wolcott (1643-1710) of Windsor. Contains contemporary description of witchcraft in Salem.

1744
Binding by Israel Johnson, Wallingford

Account book of Alexander Wolcott, 1744-1751. Binding stamped: "I Iohnson". Inventory of Israel Johnson (1706-1747) lists tools of a binder. First of that trade in Connecticut of which record has been found.

1767 February 28
Diary, William Samuel Johnson

Colonial agent in London, 1767-1771. Among other things he was connected with such legal issues as Connecticut's title to the Mohegan Lands and the Susquehanna Case.

1769
Genealogical chart of Uncas, by John Trumbull

Cited by John W. De Forest in *History of the Indians of Connecticut*, page 66. Compiled by John Trumbull, the Poet.

1776 December 7
Agreement, Marquis de Lafayette and Silas Deane

Under this agreement, Lafayette came to America to aid the Colonies. This document came to the Society through a special act of Congress.

1776 December 25-26
Diary, David Avery

Yale, 1769. Missionary, pastor at Windsor, Mass., until the Lexington Alarm. Served as Chaplain of 15th Continental Infantry in 1776, during which time he was in the expedition that crossed the Delaware and attacked Trenton, December 25 and 26, 1776.

1779 September 19
Letter, Major General Steuben to Governor Trumbull, and Map of New Haven harbor

At Trumbull's request, Steuben surveyed and made recommendations for the improvement of New Haven defences. The rough sketch map was enclosed with the report. It was Steuben's belief that after fulfilling his recommendations, New Haven would be "Able to resist the Enemy effectually unless they should come with a much superior force."

1779 October 7
Letter, George Washington to Jeremiah Wadsworth

Washington has lost a favorite penknife and wishes a new one, "with two blades . . . where choice can be had."

UNIQUE IMPRINTS

1781 DODDRIDGE, PHILIP. The Care of the Soul, Urged as the One Thing Needful: A Sermon, Preached in London, June 22, 1735. *Norwich: Reprinted by John Trumbull.* 1781.

1787?Collection of funny, moral, and entertaining stories & Bon Mots. Never before published. *New-Haven: Printed by D. Bowen. Near the College, in Chapel-Street.*

1787 D'ARNAUD, [FRANCOIS THOMAS MARIE DE BACULARD.] Fanny: or, the Happy Repentance. . . . *Norwich: Printed by John Trumbull, and sold at his office.* 1787.

1790 A Copy of a Letter written By our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and Found Under a great stone Sixty-five years after his Crucifixion. *Norwich, Re-printed,* 1790.

1791 A Catalogue of Books sold by Isaac Beers, at his Book-Store in New-Haven. *Printed by Thomas and Samuel Green.* 1791.

Divinity and ecclesiastical history	169	titles
History, voyages and travels	139	
Law	63	
Second Hand Law	21	
Physick, surgery and chemistry	108	
Poetry	66	
Novels and romances	69	
Miscellaneous	186	
Arts and sciences, mathematics, astronomy, navigation, commerce, English, dictionaries, &c	99	
Classics & books for learning French	51	
Husbandry, gardening, &c.	3	
	974	

1794 The Constitution of the Franklin Library Company. Also, Subscribers Names, and Catalogue of Books. *Norwich: Printed by John Trumbull.* 1794.

1795 The History of the Wicked Life and horrid Death of Doctor John Faustus . . . *Norwich: Printed in the Year 1795.*

1795 Instructive and entertaining Emblems on various subjects . . . By Miss Thoughtful. *Hartford: Printed by J. Babcock.* 1795.

1795 MORSE, WILLIAM. Mechanical Arts, In Thirty-Two Receipts. . . . *Hartford: Printed by Elisha Babcock.* 1795.

A saddler in Hartford who advertised in the *American Mercury*, published by Elisha Babcock, June 15, 1795: "He had on hand a few Pamphlets in thirty two Receipts for Mechanical Arts, published by himself—he avouches for their genuineness—they contain several Receipts which have of late been sold as high as twelve dollars."

1796 Truth Exploded; or, the Art of Lying and Swearing, Made Easy, and its Usefulness explained; with suitable Documents for the honorable Professors of the noble art. . . . *Hartford: Printed*, 1796.

1797 Funny Stories: or the American Jester: . . . *New-Haven: Printed for, and sold by Edward OBrien, in State-street, New Haven,* 1797.

1798 [KENDRICK, WILLIAM.] The Whole Duty of Woman. A new edition. With considerable Improvements. *London Printed. Reprinted at Litchfield by T. Collier.*

1799 [WALKER, TIMOTHY P.] The Flaming Sword, or a Sign from Heaven, Being a Remarkable Phenomenon, Seen in the State of Vermont. *Norwich, Printed,* 1799.

1800 BROWN, CLARK. A Sermon on the Gospel's Glad Tidings of Great Joy, . . . *Stonington-Port, (Connecticut,) Printed by Samuel Trumbull, For and by the request of a number of the Hearers.* 1800.

1800 Wisdom in Miniature: or the Young Gentleman and Lady's Magazine . . . *Hartford: Printed by John Babcock.* 1800.

UNIQUE BROADSIDES

1766 Glorious News, . . . [Repeal of Stamp Act] *New-London: Printed by Timothy Green, for the Benefit of the Public in general, and his good Customers in particular.*

First published report in Connecticut of the repeal of the Stamp Act. The Sons of Liberty were particularly strong in New London County and Timothy Green and his newspaper, *The Connecticut Gazette*, was most outspoken in opposition to the Stamp Act.

1767 Relation of the melancholy Death of six young persons, who were kill'd by Lightning in the Month of June, 1767, . . . By Consider Tiffany, of Hartland, in Connecticut. . . .

Consider Tiffany, of East Haddam, settled on the West Mountain in Hartland in 1760. The cut used on this broadside was apparently used again in 1777 by a Boston printer.

1777 By His Excellency Jonathan Trumbull, Esq; Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the State of Connecticut, A Proclamation . . . Thursday the Twentieth Day of November, . . . Thanksgiving . . . *Hartford Printed by Hannah Watson, near the Great-Bridge.*

The cut, by Henry Dawkins, shows the Union Flag, in use 1776-1777, and the Connecticut State Seal, which was not adopted until 1784 by the General Assembly.

1778 HAMMON, JUPITER. An Address to Miss Phillis Wheatly, Ethiopian Poetess, in Boston, who came from Africa at eight years of age, and soon became acquainted with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. . . .

Jupiter Hammon was the first member of the Negro race to write and publish poetry in this country. He belonged to Joseph Lloyd of Long Island, who as a patriot was forced to flee Long Island during the Revolution and so came to Hartford. This broadside is Hammon's second publication.

1787 The Looking Glass for 1787. [Political caricature dealing with adoption of Federal Constitution] [Probably by Amos Doolittle, New Haven]

Found in the wall of an old house on South Main Street, Springfield, Mass.

1793 A Poem, On the Death of Deacon William Brown of Groton, who departed this Life September 8th, 1793, . . . *Norwich: Printed by J. Trumbull.*

William Brown (1742-1793), was Deacon of the Second Congregational Church of North Groton. John Trumbull, the printer, was publisher of *The Norwich Packet* from 1773 until his death in August 1802.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Manuscripts

1787–1803
Account book, Joseph Carpenter, Norwich
Silversmith and clockmaker in Norwich.

1840–1847

Whaling Journal, Ship "Meteor" of Groton

To the South Atlantic Ocean after whales; Austin M. Lester, Captain, and William Montgomery, 1st Mate.

1850–1851

Journal, California

To California via Cape Horn, on board ship "Samuel Appleton", Isaac S. Doane, Master. By [I. W. Chapman].

Imprints

1776 A New Primer. *Norwich, Printed by John Trumbull, bound and sold by Henry Spencer at East Greenwich, in Rhode Island,* 1776.

1779 [WOLCOTT, WILLIAM.] Grateful Reflections on the Divine Goodness vouchsaf'd to the American Arms in their Remarkable Successes in the Northern Department, after the giving up of our Fortresses at Ticonderoga, on the 6th of July, A.D. 1777. . . . *Hartford: Hudson & Goodwin.*

The Brinley copy with the author "William Wolcott" supplied in the handwriting of Thomas Robbins, the Society's first librarian. Advertised "Just Published" in *The Connecticut Courant,* September 28, 1779.

1780 Proceedings of a general court martial on the trial of Col. Elisha Sheldon, at Fishkill, October 25, 1780 . . . *Hartford: Printed by Hudson and Goodwin,* 1780.

Sheldon is acquitted with "honor and full approbation." A unique copy since the New York State Library fire.

1797 REED, ABNER. Love Triumphant, or, Constancy Rewarded. . . . *Troy: Printed by Luther Pratt & Co.* 1797.

First novel by a Connecticut author.

1814 The Holy Bible . . . *Hartford, Connecticut. Printed by Hudson & Goodwin.* 1814.

Unique index guide to some books of the Old Testament.

1854 CLARKE, CYRENE M. Glances at Life Upon the Sea, or Journal of a Voyage to the Antarctic Ocean, . . . *Middletown: Charles H. Pelton, Printer.* 1854.

No record of this interesting journal has been located.

These recent acquisitions are particularly interesting for they illustrate that the source of supply has not dried up and that the Society is willing and able to acquire what it feels are valuable additions to its collection.

To further add lustre to the exhibition, Mr. Hammerslough loaned a number of his important Connecticut silver pieces. Hand lists are still available upon request and the exhibition will remain for several more months.

The price of these Bulletins is ten cents each.